

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,  
Following the body of this letter is a personal addendum which I hope you will take the time to read!

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

The FCC raid on the TRULY PUBLIC station "Radio Free Santa Cruz" was nothing short of an abuse of our free speech as citizens, and directly violated the first amendment to the United States Constitution. I realize that this was an unregistered station, but not only had they been broadcasting for roughly ten years, they were strongly supported by their community, as well as the mayor and City Council of Santa Cruz, CA. My addition to this PIRG letter is in the hope that you will have their equipment returned to them immediately, so that they may continue to edify people who so dearly desire edification! I realize that your partisan views make you want to impede this spread of so-called "liberal" information, but we DO NOT live in a police state, and MUST NOT be deprived of our most basic rights just to serve the agenda of your appointer, Pres. Bush, Jr.

Thank you for your time.  
Most Sincerely, Ken Rugg

Sincerely,

Ken Rugg  
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